

The Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research

Akron Children's Hospital
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Baystate Children's Hospital
Boston Children's Hospital
Children's of Alabama
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Children's Mercy Hospital
Children's National Medical Center

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
LeBonheur Children's Hospital
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Nemours Children's Health System
Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital
Primary Children's Medical Center
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
Seattle Children's
St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
St. Louis Children's Hospital
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

November 12, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States Congress
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Pitts and Ranking Members Waxman and Pallone:

On behalf of the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, representing leading children's hospitals responsible for treating our nation's sickest children today and conducting research to develop the therapies, treatments, and cures of tomorrow, I am writing to offer our endorsement of **S. 252, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act** that as amended includes the **National Pediatric Research Network Act** as Title II.

The National Pediatric Research Act is a bipartisan and bicameral legislative proposal to strengthen our nation's commitment to pediatric medical research in a cost-effective manner by allowing the National Institutes of Health to support multi-institution research consortia focused on pediatrics. Modeled upon the successful National Cancer Centers and other research networks, the consortia seek to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery in pediatrics and to drive greater levels of collaboration, coordination, and resource sharing. Funds awarded under the program would help support the acquisition of shared advanced research technologies necessary to discharge a 21st Century research agenda and would also support much-needed training slots for early-career investigators focusing in pediatrics.

The need for a focused commitment to pediatric research is clear. A growing body of evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that therapies and interventions delivered early in life – during infancy, childhood and adolescence – prevents diseases and their life-long adverse impacts on health and economic contributions to society. Similarly, research on pediatric populations is useful for understanding the origin of adult-onset diseases and is useful in preventing and treating such conditions. When pediatric research as a whole struggles, so too do our nation's children because of the reduced focus and funding to pediatric-based disorders and because of limited access to innovations in care and treatments that help improve life and reduce healthcare costs.

Every single day, the members of the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research care for tens of thousands of children, a number of whom are suffering from the most deadly and complex diseases. Thanks to research breakthroughs achieved over the years, the children's hospitals in the coalition have made progress in treating a number of conditions that not too long ago were considered near-certain death sentences. But making continued progress to heal children today and tomorrow necessitates a robust commitment to our nation's children, something that will happen under this proposal.

Thank you for your strong support of the National Pediatric Research Network Act and for incorporating the legislation as Title II of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act. The Coalition looks forward to working with you to enact this legislation into law this year. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me at 202.312.7499 or nicholas.manetto@faegrebd.com.

Sincerely,

Nick Manetto
For the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research